THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has undertaken modernisation of the Patent Offices in order to streamline and rationalise the procedure for grant of patents. This includes infrastructure and human resource development, re-engineering of work procedures, computerisation of operations, networking of offices, focus on clearance of backlog of pending applications and awareness creation. Several steps have already been taken for clearance of backolg of pending patent applications. These include action for recruitment of additional Examiners, hiring of additional accommodation for the patent offices and acquisition of additional computer equipments.

Foreign Exchange earned from Export

34. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tea, coffee, jewellery, leather garments and clothes exported from the country during each of the last five years and till date; State-wise;

(b) the names of the countries to which these goods were exported; and

(c) the details of foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Quantity figures are available at a disaggregated level. State-wise data are not available. As per DGCI & S data the value of export of tea, coffee, gems and jewellery, leather and manufactures and textiles for last five years is as under:

(US $ Million)

Commodity/ Year	Tea	Coffee	Gems and Jewellery	Leather and Manufactures	Textiles
1995%	350.13	449.34	5275.21	1752.35	7468.72
1996-97	292.14	401.86	4752.71	1605.82	8045.32
1997-98	504.86	456.38	5345.52	1656.69	8504.85
1998-99	538.35	410.72	5929.35	1660.72	8322.77
1999-2000*	407.49	314.79	7636.04	1538.39	9253.36

*****Data for 1999-2000 are provisional and subject to change.

These goods are exported to the following countries:—

Russia, U.K. UAE, Germany, USA, Saudi Arabia, Poland, Iraq, Japan, Kazakistan, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Netherland, Denmark, Hong Kong, South Africa, France, Switzerland, Portugal, Singapore, Korea RP, Australia, China PRP, Malaysia, Israel, Thailand and Canada.

Selling off the Shares of Government Companies

†35. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided to repay the loans of the country with money received by selling the shares of Government companies;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that it is estimated that Government would earn an. amount of Rs. 7,00,000 crore by selling the shares; and

(c) if not, the actual estimate in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Budget speech for 2000-01 states that proceeds from disinvestment would be used for inter-alia retiring the debt.

(b) No, Sir. No such estimate has been made by the Govt.

(c) The realization from sale of shares depend on various factors like market conditions, financial performance of the company, terms and conditions of sale, interest of the investor/buyer, advise of the professional consultants etc. No Estimates of realization from sale of shares can, therefore, be made.

Selling off the shares of Public Institutions

†36. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have pushed ahead the task of collecting the capital by selling the shares of certain public Institutions;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.